



MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

February 6, 2008

The Lee County Fire Advisory Board met on February 6, 2008 at Carolina Trace Fire Department, 37A Indian Trail, Sanford, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

- Donald Andrews, Jr.
- Larry Kelly
- John Altenburger
- Linda Shook
- Shane Seagroves, Ex officio member

The following members were excused:

- Royce Gaines
- Doc Oldham
- Roger King

Chairman Donald Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The revised minutes from the December 12th meeting were passed out and a decision was made to approve the minutes at the next Fire Advisory Board meeting.

Mike Thomas, point of contact and liaison for Cape Fear's proposed substation, reported that Cape Fear has secured property for their sub-station and asked if there was a problem deviating from the construction plan proposed by the Fire Advisory Board. Tim Sloan commented they would like to "eliminate the back door" of the substation because of the fall of the property. Instead of the drive-thru called for in the plan, doors would be installed at the back of the building and apparatus would be backed in.

An update on Clearwater and Waverly Place revealed that a letter has been sent to the County and City Managers stating the concerns of the uncovered areas and possible contract options. Even with the proposed location of the substation, Cape Fear would not be able to bring coverage within a rated six mile district in order to benefit their citizens. Cape Fear has elected to let the county secure coverage through the City of Sanford to cover the Clearwater area. As stated, County and City Managers are working together to find the best solution to this issue.

A brief update on Lemon Springs sub-station was given by Shane noting that a groundbreaking ceremony will take place Saturday, February 9, at 12 noon. The building is due to be delivered on March 1st and according to the contractor the completion date of June, 2008 is right on target.

Shane passed out graphical handouts depicting a baseline comparison between the county volunteer departments and the City of Sanford. Comparisons consisted of the number of personnel, average age of gear, average age of air packs, air packs, trucks, average age of trucks, physicals by percent, physicals, portable radios, and pagers. Shane stated that the numbers for physicals for each department were deceiving since they were paid for by other departments and not by their respective volunteer fire departments. He also stressed that physicals are a number one priority and something to push forward. Larry Kelly noted that if physicals were made a requirement, a large portion of the volunteer workforce would be wiped out by about 20% and could only be used as "interior firefighters". At present, physicals are recommended by the NFPA but are not mandated. Larry suggested if physicals were made a requirement that standardized sheets, such as those used by OSHA and the State, should be used across all departments. Commissioner Shook made the FAB aware that the county/city has received a sum of \$500,000 from the 9-1-1 fund which has been posted to the general fund, that might possibly be an option to assist with physicals for the departments. Shane replied that the 9-1-1 funds have been earmarked for emergency services and that there are restrictions on how the funds can be used.

The flat tax was briefly discussed and John Altenburger made a suggestion that the FAB hold a session dedicated solely to the subject of the tax. Due to the absence of three of the FAB members, it was thought best to continue this discussion at such time, as input from each member is crucial. Chairman Donald Andrews reiterated that the flat tax is the last issue that needs to be addressed by the FAB so they can make a recommendation to the County Commissioners.

Therefore being no further business to come before the FAB, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Donald Andrews, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Nancy Veroni, Secretary